

6. (Amended) An isolated polynucleotide which is from 86 to 90% identical to the polynucleotide of Claim 3 and encodes a protein that has an activity of a β -subunit of RNA polymerase B.

7. (Amended) An isolated polynucleotide which is at least 95% identical to the polynucleotide of Claim 3 and encodes a protein that has an activity of a β -subunit of RNA polymerase B.

a²
8. (Amended) An isolated polynucleotide which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the polynucleotide of Claim 3 and encodes a protein that has an activity of a β -subunit of RNA polymerase B; wherein said stringent conditions comprise washing in 0.5X SSC at a temperature from 50 to 68°C.

a³
10. (Amended) An isolated polynucleotide comprising at least one polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of at least 15 consecutive nucleotides of nucleotides 1 to 701 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least 35 consecutive nucleotides of nucleotides 702 to 4199 of SEQ ID NO: 1, and at least 25 consecutive nucleotides of nucleotides 4200 to 5099 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

40. (Amended) A *Coryneform* bacterium, comprising said isolated polynucleotide of Claim 1 wherein said protein encoded by said polynucleotide is enhanced.

a⁴
41. (Amended) The *Coryneform bacterium* of Claim 40, wherein said isolated polynucleotide comprises the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

42. (Amended) The *Coryneform* bacterium of Claim 40, wherein said isolated polynucleotide comprises the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

a4

43. (Amended) The *Coryneform* bacterium of Claim 40, wherein said isolated polynucleotide comprises the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.--

Please add the following claims.

88. (New) The isolated polynucleotide according to Claim 10, wherein said polynucleotide is a probe or a primer.

89. (New) A vector, comprising the isolated polynucleotide of Claim 6.

90. (New) A vector, comprising the isolated polynucleotide of Claim 7.

91. (New) A vector, comprising the isolated polynucleotide of Claim 8.

a5

92. (New) An isolated polynucleotide which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the polynucleotide of Claim 4 and encodes a protein that has an activity of a β -subunit of RNA polymerase B; wherein said stringent conditions comprise washing in 0.5X SSC at a temperature from 50 to 68°C.

93. (New) A vector, comprising the isolated polynucleotide of Claim 92.